



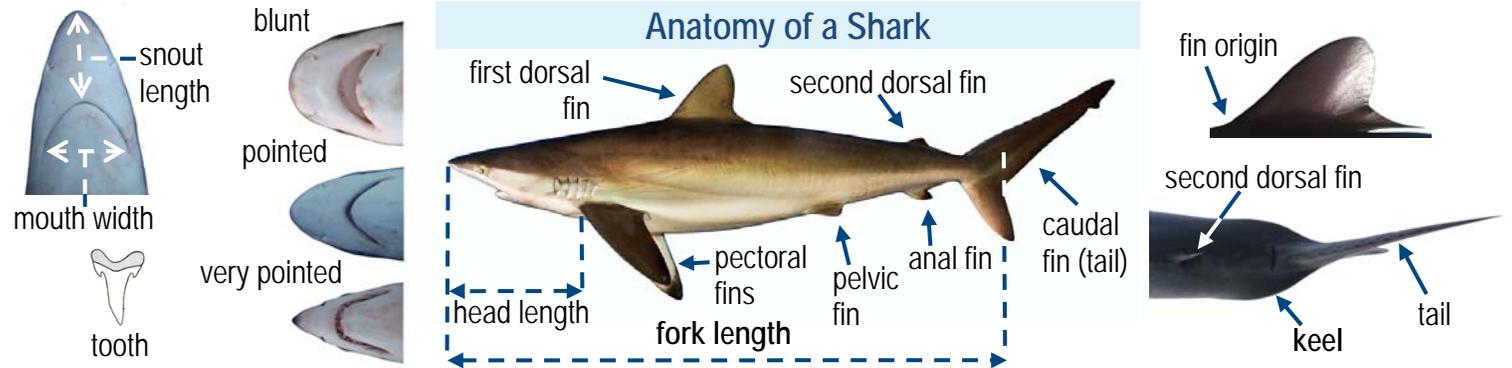
Shark Identification

If you don't know, let it go

and Federal Regulations for the Recreational Fishery of the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico

Prohibited species are underlined in red

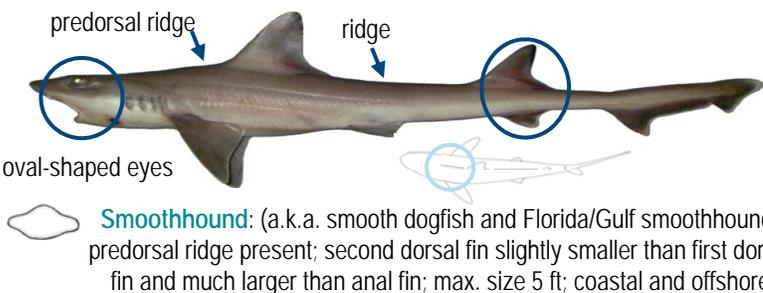
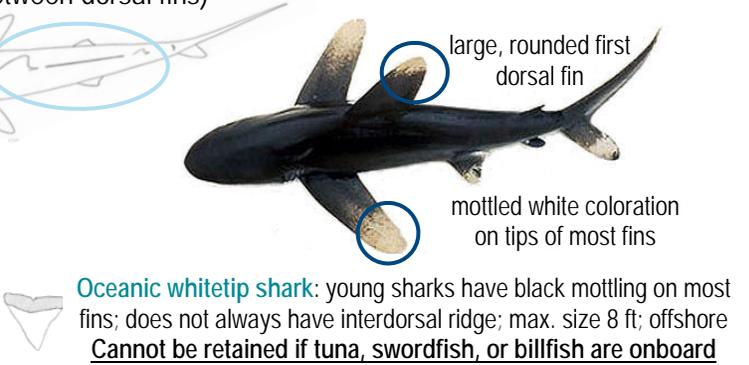
Federal fishing permit required in Federal waters Purchase at hmspermits.noaa.gov		
Authorized Species	Minimum Size (fork length)	Bag Limit (per trip)
Smoothhound shark	None	None
Atlantic sharpnose shark	None	1 per person
Bonnethead	None	1 per person
Hammerheads (great, scalloped, and smooth)	78 inches	1 per vessel (hammerhead OR other shark)
Other sharks	54 inches	



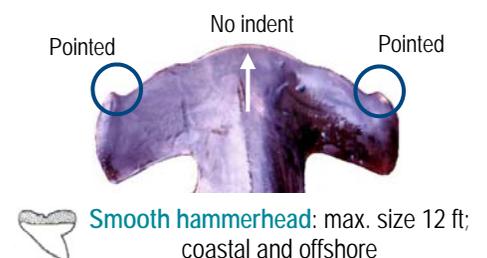
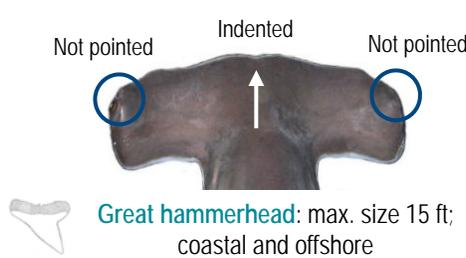
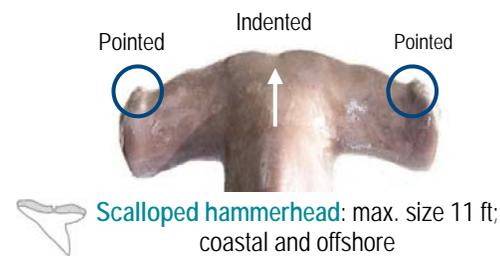
All ridgeback sharks are prohibited, except for tiger, oceanic whitetip, or smoothhound sharks

Prohibited ridgeback sharks: bignose, Caribbean reef, dusky, Galapagos, night, sandbar, and silky sharks

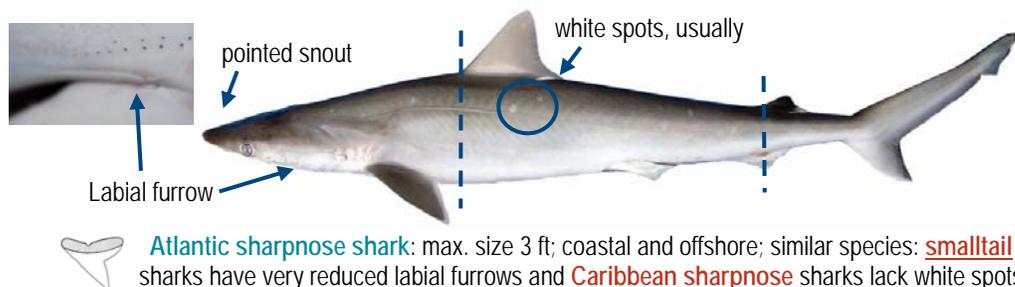
Ridgeback sharks are sharks with an interdorsal ridge (a visible line of raised skin between dorsal fins)



Scalloped hammerheads, great hammerheads, and smooth hammerheads cannot be retained if tuna, swordfish, or billfish are onboard

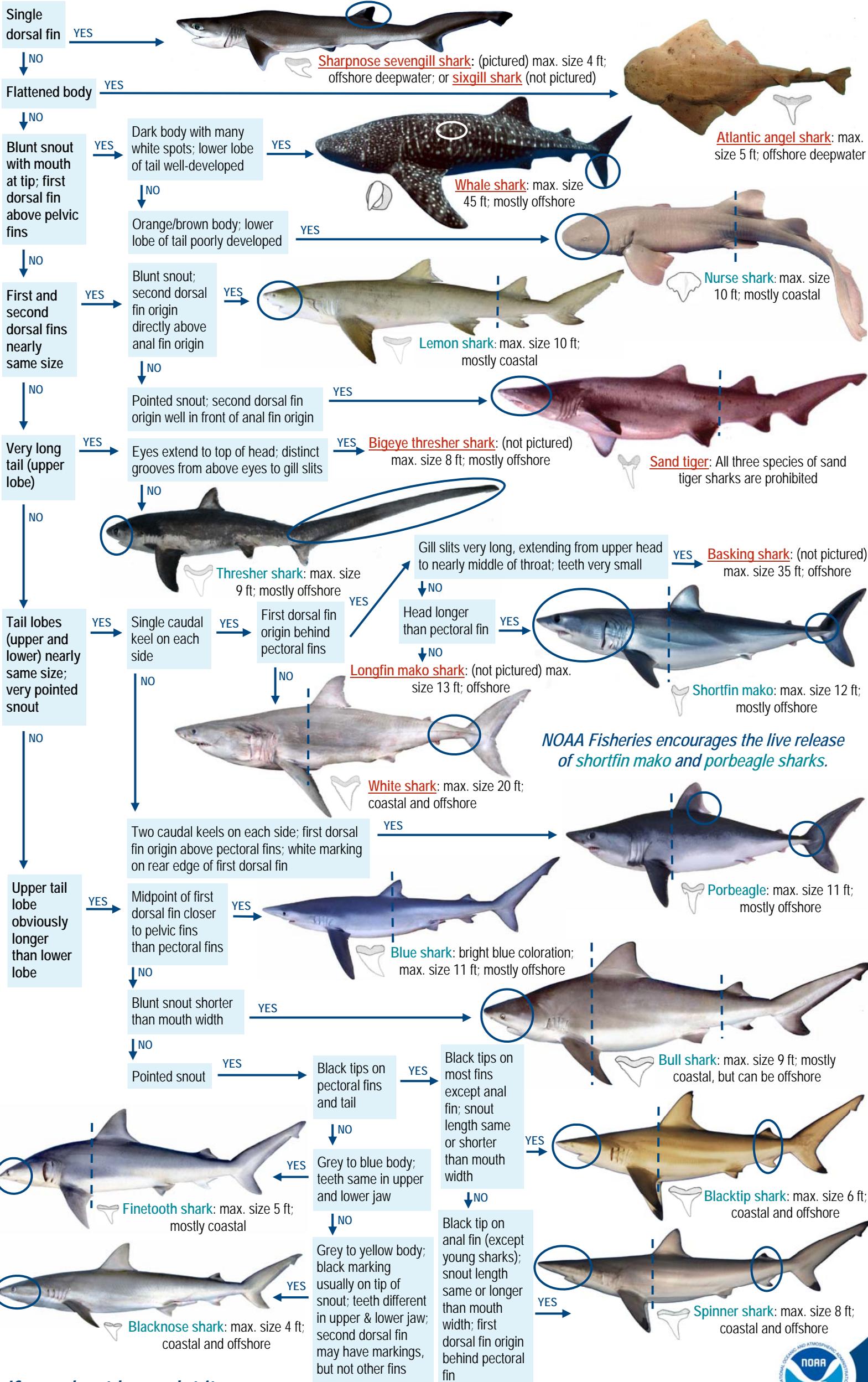


There is no minimum size for Atlantic sharpnose sharks or bonnetheads



All sharks within a species are not identical; however, these are common characteristics for the majority of individuals. Young sharks can vary in appearance from adults. Maximum sizes are approximate.

Use this key to identify non-ridgeback sharks



NOAA Fisheries encourages the live release of shortfin mako and porbeagle sharks.

If you don't know, let it go

All species that may be retained in Federal waters are shown on this placard | Prohibited species are underlined in red

